

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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R 231130Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8491

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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COMMERCE FOR BEWT/TPD (THOMPSON)

VIENNA FOR USEWTC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, CZ

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

REF: PRAGUE 1732

1. EMBOFFS ATTENDING BELGIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION JULY 21 WERE APPROACHED SEPARATELY BY PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, LUDVIK CERNY, AND LOCAL AP STRINGER CONCERNING RUMORS BOTH HAD HEARD ABOUT POSSIBLE VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN SEPTEMBER OF LARGE SENATORIAL DELEGATION "LED BY SENATOR JACKSON." AP STRINGER SAID SHE HAD JUST HAD CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, JAROSLAV JAKUBEC, WHO HAD NOT HIMSELF HEARD RUMOR BUT HAD EXPRESSED TO SOURCE HIS KEEN INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A VISIT.

2. CHAMBER PRESIDENT CERNY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THERE ALSO WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING AN "AMERICAN DAY" AT BRNO FAIR IN HONOR SENATORS' PRESENCE; IF THIS WAS CASE, HE URGED EMBASSY TO MAKE WISHES KNOWN SO THAT NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN EARLY. WHEN QUERIED AS TO WHETHER CZECHS WOULD EVEN AGREE

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TO SUCH AN EVENT IN PRESENT STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH

U.S., CERNY WOULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN BUT LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT IF REQUEST CAME FROM U.S. SIDE IT WOULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. "WE ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, YOU KNOW, BUT THE INITIATIVE MUST COME FROM YOU," HE REMARKED.

3. THE AP STRINGER, TOO, WAS AWARE OF "AMERICA DAY" IDEA AND OFFERED HER OPINION BASED ON CONVERSATIONS SHE HAD HAD WITH CZECH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DEPMIN JAKUBEC, THAT CZECHS WOULD BE ANXIOUS TO CONSIDER SUCH A PROPOSAL, IF WE MADE IT TO THEM.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY MYSTIFIED AS TO HOW NEWS OF PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LEAKED OUT, SINCE WE HELD IT VERY CLOSELY AND MADE NO MENTION OF IT TO ANYONE IN GOC AS INSTRUCTED PARA 7, STATE 160788. FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT CZECHS ARE NOW AWARE OF PROPOSAL AND APPARENTLY WOULD WELCOME HIGH-LEVEL VISIT OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. IN LIGHT OF CERNY'S COMMENTS, WE WERE PERHAPS TOO HASTY IN SHOOTING DOWN IDEA OF "AMERICA DAY" AT FAIR (PARA 5 REFTEL), AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO BROACH IDEA FORMALLY TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE IF AND WHEN GO SIGNAL IS GIVEN FOR CODEL VISIT.

5. FOREGOING DRAFTED BEFORE RECEIPT STATE 172344. EMBASSY WELCOMES CODEL AND CONCURS FULLY WITH ITINERARY FOR PRAGUE AND BRNO OUTLINED PARA.2. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS ASAP RE AMERICA DAY.
SHERER

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